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LETTER DATED 23 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the massive destruction wrought by the United States and its allies on Iraq's civilian facilities and infrastructure in the course of their military operations, which lasted from the night of 16/17 January 1991 until 28 February 1991, clearly demonstrated the iniquitous character of the United States and its unlawful use of the cover of international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions in order to destroy an entire people.

Not content with the more than 90,000 tons of bombs which they dropped during over 100,000 air raids on Iraqi cities and installations, United States aircraft continued - even after the cessation of hostilities and on the pretext of conducting reconnaissance - to carry out intensive air activity in Iraqi airspace, to shoot down unarmed aircraft, to destroy tanks, to drop airborne troops onto roads inside Iraq and to intercept Iraqi helicopters which were performing civilian duties and carrying civilian officials, political figures and relief agency delegations inside Iraq because military operations had destroyed and cut most of the country's land transportation routes.

The following are details of these acts of provocation:

Date	Details
26/27 July	Thirty-two sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at various altitudes over Arbil, Dohuk and Mosul, for the purpose of observation and provocation
27/28 July	Fifteen sorties flown at speeds ranging from 700 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 500 and 5,500 metres over Amadiyah, Dohuk, Arbil, Tall'Afar, and Mosul, for the purpose of observation and provocation
28/29 July	Twelve sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at low and medium altitudes over Arbil, Dohuk, Zakho, Amadiyah and Tall'Afar, for the purpose of observation and provocation
29/30 July	Twenty-one sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at various altitudes over Mosul, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Arbil and the area north of Tall'Afar, for the purpose of observation and provocation
31 July/1 August	Twenty-two sorties flown at speeds ranging from 700 to 900 km/h and at low and medium altitudes over Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah and Arbil, for the purpose of observation and provocation
1/2 August	Seventeen sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at various altitudes over Dohuk, Mosul, Arbil and Amadiyah, for the purpose of observation and provocation
2/3 August	Twenty-two sorties flown at speeds ranging from 700 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 500 and 18,000 metres over Dohuk, Amadiyah, the area north of Mosul, Arbil and Qalaa Dizah, for the purpose of observation and provocation
3/4 August	Twenty-five sorties flown at speeds ranging from 700 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 3,000 and 6,000 metres over Dohuk, Mosul, Arbil, Tall'Afar, Amadiyah and Zakho, for the purpose of observation and provocation
4/5 August	Sixteen sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 2,000 and 7,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk and Amadiyah, for the purpose of observation and provocation

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Date	Details
5/6 August	Twenty-six sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 850 km/h and at altitudes of between 1,500 and 6,500 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Amadiyah, Dohuk and Tall'Afar, for the purpose of observation and provocation
6/7 August	Ten sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 4,500 and 17,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk and Amadiyah, for the purpose of observation and provocation. In the course of the same day, at 1425 hours, two aircraft broke the sound barrier over the town of Mosul
7/8 August	Thirty sorties flown at speeds ranging from 720 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 3,500 and 7,500 metres over Dohuk, Arbil, Rawanduz, Amadiyah, Mosul and Shaqlawah, for the purpose of observation and provocation. In the course of the same day two aircraft flew at altitudes ranging from 2,000 to 6,000 metres and at a speed of 720 km/h over the area located south of the 36th parallel, passing 30 km north of the town of Kirkuk
8/9 August	Thirty-three sorties flown at speeds ranging from 720 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 2,000 and 20,000 metres over Dohuk, Arbil, Mosul, Shaqlawah and Rawanduz, for the purpose of observation and provocation
9/10 August	Seventeen sorties flown at speeds ranging from 700 to 800 km/h and at altitudes of between 4,500 and 7,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil and Dohuk, for the purpose of observation and provocation
10/11 August	Twenty-five sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 2,500 and 6,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Amadiyah, Zakho and Dohuk, for the purpose of observation and provocation
11/12 August	Twenty-four sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 500 and 6,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk, Tall'Afar, Amadiyah and Rawanduz, for the purpose of observation and provocation

Date	Details
12/13 August	Nine sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 6,000 and 7,000 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Dohuk and Amadiyah, for the purpose of observation and provocation
13/14 August	Thirty-five sorties flown at speeds ranging from 650 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 2,500 and 10,000 metres over Arbil, Dohuk, Amadiyah, Zakho, Mosul and the area north of Tall'Afar, for the purpose of observation and provocation
14/15 August	Twenty sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 800 km/h and at altitudes of between 5,000 and 7,500 metres over Arbil, Rawanduz, Zakho, Mosul and Amadiyah, for the purpose of observation and provocation
15/16 August	Eleven sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 720 km/h and at altitudes of between 4,000 and 6,000 metres over Arbil, Mosul, Dohuk and Amadiyah, for the purpose of observation and provocation. In the course of the same day, at 1006 hours, an unidentified target coming from Kuwait violated our airspace in the Safwan area. It was a single aircraft, flying at 600 km/h, which reached to within 35 km south of Basra. We lost sight of it at 1020 hours inside Kuwaiti airspace. It was probably engaged in a reconnaissance mission in the region. At 1255 hours an unidentified target penetrated 10 km into our airspace east of Safwan. It was a single aircraft, flying at 600 km/h, which we lost sight of at 1305 hours inside Kuwaiti airspace. It was probably engaged in a reconnaissance mission in the region At 1348 hours, an unidentified target coming from Kuwait violated our airspace south of Artawiya. It was a single aircraft, flying at 600 km/h, which penetrated 5 km into our airspace. We lost sight of it at 1356 hours inside Kuwaiti airspace. It was probably engaged in a reconnaissance mission in the region. At 1406 hours, an unidentified target appeared in Iraqi airspace 5 km west of Safwan. It repeated the violation at 1425 hours, reaching the southern perimeter of the air base. It was a single aircraft, flying at 600 km/h, which penetrated 10 km into our airspace. It was probably engaged in a reconnaissance mission in the region

Date	Details
16/17 August	Fourteen sorties flown at speeds ranging from 700 to 900 km/h and at altitudes of between 2,000 and 10,000 metres over Mosul, Dohuk, Amadiyah and Arbil, for the purpose of observation and provocation
17/18 August	Twelve sorties flown at speeds ranging from 600 to 750 km/h and at altitudes of between 3,000 and 4,500 metres over Mosul, Arbil, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Rawanduz and Tall'Afar, for the purpose of observation and provocation. In the course of the same day, at 1140 hours, an unidentified airborne target violated Iraqi airspace in the Jabal Sanam area. It was an aircraft flying at 600 km/h towards Artawiya. We lost sight of it north of Artawiya at 1155 hours At 1314 hours on the same day, an unidentified airborne target violated Iraqi airspace in the Jarishan area, south of Artawiya. It was an aircraft flying at 600 km/h which re-entered Kuwaiti airspace and disappeared from our sight at 1320 hours

In placing these facts before the Secretary-General of the United Nations, members of the Security Council and all the nations, peoples and organizations of the world, we hope that the world will appreciate the length to which America has gone in its excessive and unjustified use of force, thus violating Security Council resolutions, showing contempt for the feelings of Iraqi citizens and disturbing their tranquillity and security.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sabah Talat KADRAT
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.